

their lives. It is my honor to recognize the veterans of Vietnam and their families for their patriotism and sacrifice.

While this anniversary presents a clear opportunity to remember the sacrifices of our veterans, I want to make sure our nation does not forget their contributions in the generations to come. The immense perseverance and bravery of our soldiers both in the face of conflict and in the decades following exemplify the American commitment to service and democracy. We owe these veterans our profoundest gratitude.

I would particularly like to recognize the contributions of Michigan veterans. Over 400,000 men and women of our state served in the Vietnam War, with 2,654 paying the ultimate sacrifice.

On July 18th, we honor our state's veterans at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. It is my honor to represent many of these men and women, and my duty to respectfully preserve their memories with the same dedication with which these veterans defended our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the veterans of Vietnam and extend my deepest appreciation to them for their years of service to our great country.

#### THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: ENSURING ACCURATE NUMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION ACTION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of everyone—especially all of the left-behind parents I saw in the audience—for joining me at a hearing I held last week to discuss how the U.S. Department of State's first annual report under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act can better correspond with the mandate set by Congress and achieve the return of abducted American children, which is the ultimate objective of the Goldman Act.

Every year, an estimated 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders.

International parental child abduction rips children from their homes and families and whisks them away to a foreign land, alienating them from the love and care of the parent and family left behind.

Child abduction is child abuse, and it continues to plague families across the United States.

For decades, the State Department has used "quiet diplomacy" to attempt to bring these children home. But we know that less than half of these children ever come home—even from countries that have signed the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

In a hearing I held on this issue back in 2009, former Assistant Secretary of State Bernie Aronson called quiet diplomacy "a sophisticated form of begging." Thousands of American families still ruptured and grieving from

years of unresolved abductions confirm that "quiet diplomacy" is gravely inadequate.

Last year, Congress unanimously passed the Goldman Act to give teeth to requests for return and access. The actions required by the law escalate in severity, and range from official protests through diplomatic channels, to extradition, to the suspension of development, security, or other foreign assistance.

The Goldman Act is a law calculated to get results, as we did in the return of Sean Goldman from Brazil in late December, 2009.

But the new law is only as good as its implementation.

The State Department's first annual report that we reviewed last week is the first step in moving past "quiet diplomacy" to results. The State Department must get this report right in order to trigger the actions above and for the law to be an effective tool.

Countries should be listed as worst offenders if they have high numbers of cases—30 percent or more—that have been pending over a year: or if their judicial or administrative branch, or central authority for abduction fail in their duties under the Hague Convention or other controlling agreement, or; if their law enforcement rarely fails to enforce return orders or access rights.

Once these countries are properly classified, the Secretary of State then determines which of the aforementioned actions the U.S. will apply to the country in order to encourage the timely resolution of abduction and access cases.

While the State Department has choice of which tools to apply, and can waive actions for up to 180 days, the State Department does not have discretion over whether to report accurately to Congress on the country's record, or on whether the country is objectively non-compliant.

As we have seen in the human trafficking context—I authored the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as well as the Goldman Act—accurate accounting of a country's record, especially in comparison with other countries, can do wonders to prod much needed reform.

Accurate reporting is also critical to family court judges across the country and parents considering their child's travel to a foreign country where abduction or access problems are a risk.

The stakes are high: misleading or incomplete information could mean the loss of another American child to abduction.

For example, a judge might look at the report table filled with zeros in the unresolved cases category—such as in the case of Japan—and erroneously conclude that a country is not of concern, giving permission to an estranged spouse to travel with the child for a vacation. The estranged spouse then abducts the child and the left-behind parent spends his or her life savings and many years trying to get the child returned to the U.S.

All of which could have been avoided with accurate reporting on the danger.

I am very concerned that the first annual report contains major gaps and even misleading information, especially when it comes to countries with which we have the most intractable abduction cases.

For instance, the report indicates that India, which has consistently been in the top five destinations for abducted American children, had 19 new cases in 2014, 22 resolved cases,

and no unresolved cases. However, we know from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, that India has 53 open abduction cases—and that 51 have been pending for more than 1 year.

While the State Department has shown willingness to work constructively on making the report better—for example, meeting last week with staff—our June 11 hearing left many questions unanswered as to why this report failed to hold countries accountable for unresolved cases.

We wrote the law with the belief that the State Department was formally raising these cases by name with the foreign ministries of destination countries, and asked that cases still pending one year after being raised would be counted as "unresolved."

But these cases were not included in the report. A few parents who reported their cases to the State Department years ago and who have been consistently begging the Department for help were told by their case officers recently that the cases were formally communicated to India in May of 2015.

May of 2015—delay is denial.

The Goldman Act also requires the State Department to take actions against countries such as India and Japan if they refuse to resolve abduction and access cases.

The Goldman Act also requires the State Department to begin negotiations with countries like India and Japan for a bilateral agreement to secure the resolution of the more than 100 open cases we have pending with those two countries—cases that are not listed as "unresolved" in the report.

The Goldman Act requires an end to the status quo—but the first step toward change is telling the truth in the report.

Which is why I am so concerned that Japan was not listed as showing a persistent failure to work with the U.S. on abduction cases. Japan has never issued and enforced a return order for a single one of the hundreds of American children abducted there.

It holds the world record on the abduction of American children never returned.

And yet it got a pass on more than 50 open cases, most of which have been pending for 5 years or more.

Among such cases is that of Sgt. Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as "my country will protect me."

Her country, very worried about its designation in the new report, sent a high-level delegation in March to meet with Ambassador Jacobs and explain why Japan should be excused from being listed as "non-compliant," despite the fact that more than one year after signing the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Japan has ordered zero returns to the U.S.

Just before the report was released in May—two weeks late—Takashi Okada, Deputy Director General in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the Japanese Diet that he had been in consultation with the State Department and "because we strived to make an explanation to the U.S. side, I hope

that the report contents will be based on our country's efforts."

In other words, Japan understood it would get a pass from the State Department and escape the list of countries facing action by the U.S. for their failure to resolve abduction cases based on what Mr. Okada euphemistically refers to as "efforts," not results.

Sgt. Michael Elias's country has utterly failed to protect him. He has seen zero progress in his case over the last year—the 7th year of his heart-wrenching ordeal—and yet the State Department cannot even bring itself to hold Japan accountable by naming Japan a worst offender in the annual report.

The Goldman Act is clear: All requests for return that the State Department submitted to the foreign ministry and that remained unresolved 12 months later are to be counted against Japan—and followed up with action.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

The question still remains, will the State Department use the Goldman Act as required by law?

RECOGNIZING COLLIN HORAN FOR  
EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY  
SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE  
NORTH POINT VETERANS PRO-  
GRAM

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Collin Horan, a Greencastle-Antrim Middle School student, for his dedicated service to the North Point Veterans Program.

Mr. Horan chose to work with the North Point Veteran's Home, a housing, employment, independent living, and recovery-oriented service provider for displaced veterans, out of a sense of gratitude for our former service members, and given his family's ties to the military.

After speaking with the home's 23 current residents, Mr. Horan set out with the help and support of his parents, Don and Lauren Horan, to provide the veterans with an impressive donation, which included home living essentials like towels and toiletry items, as well as significant funds for the home to purchase a refrigerator and laptop computer.

Garnering support from the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Funkstown and a number of local businesses, Mr. Horan worked tirelessly and even overcame a health setback to complete the service project in conjunction with his church confirmation.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Horan, a selfless young man, and congratulate him for his committed service to the North Point Veteran's Home, our country's service members, and his local community.

RECOGNIZING DR. RON KRUSE FOR  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Dr. Ron Kruse. He retired as Executive Director from the Developmental Services of Franklin County on June 8, 2015. Dr. Kruse has contributed to the county for 28 years.

Dr. Kruse was the first employee and executive director hired in 1987, and under his leadership DSFC expanded to a team of 142 employees. He served 38 years in the field, 28 of those serving the people of Franklin County with developmental disabilities. His work provided case management at the local level by developing the Franklin County Dental Network, Behavioral Services Early Intervention programming, and by partnering with county agencies to meet the residents' transportation needs. This showcases his ability to make a positive impact and leave behind a strong legacy with an organization that provides quality, innovative services.

DSFC enhances employment opportunities, educational and developmental programs, family support programs, and community living options. The organization also promotes public awareness and community collaboration to serve individuals with developmental disabilities, such as Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, or a similar condition diagnosed before the age of 22. Thanks to Dr. Kruse's efforts, Franklin County will continue to move in the right direction for people with development disabilities.

With this retirement, Dr. Ron Kruse can now spend more time with his family which includes: his wife Pamela, daughters Jill and Kate, and grandson Ellis.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. Ron Kruse on his retirement after 28 years of commitment to his community.

HONORING MR. ROY LEE SEAY

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2015*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Roy Lee Seay, who has been honored for his services in the Vietnam War. Through his service in the United States Army, Mr. Seay earned several medals and awards such as the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" device. Mr. Seay was also recently surprised to find out he has been recognized with the following awards: the Silver Star, the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle and Machinegun Bars, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unity Citation with Palm Device.

Mr. Seay was born July 12, 1947 in Mer Rouge, Louisiana to the late Robert Seay and

Elizabeth Seay. In October 1970, roughly eight months after returning from the war, Mr. Seay and his wife, Maggie Seay, moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he worked for Food Machinery Corporation/United Defense Industries for twenty-nine years until his retirement in 1999.

Mr. Seay is a dedicated member of his church, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Minneapolis, where he also works as a Sunday School Teacher. Mr. Seay's family is of utmost importance to him. He is the proud father of three daughters: Debra Brinkley, Sandra Moore, and Lawanda Moore; and one son: Lonnie LaValias.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Seay and his entire family, on a lifetime of service—to his county, to his family, and to his community. Thank you, Roy, for your service.

DIGNIFIED INTERMENT OF OUR  
VETERANS ACT

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on an issue plaguing our nation's veterans, and to thank two of my constituents from Fayette County, Mr. Lanny Golden, a Vietnam Veteran, and Mr. Ron Metros, a member of Rolling Thunder's Pennsylvania Chapter 5, for working with me on legislation to return dignity and respect to our country's heroes.

There are an estimated 47,000 unclaimed veteran remains that have been left to collect dust on funeral home shelves because the next of kin has not or could not be identified. Existing legislation directs the Veteran Affairs Administration, veteran service organizations, and funeral directors to work together in identifying veteran status for the deceased and making every effort to locate the next of kin. Unfortunately, there are a host of barriers that prevent effective collaboration among these stakeholders. For example, in my state of Pennsylvania, the Missing in America Project found nearly 100 unclaimed veterans within a couple years' time. Some of those veterans were sitting on shelves for more than 20 years awaiting burial.

We can speculate regarding the reason for this disgrace but we cannot know for sure without giving this issue the attention it deserves. That is why I have introduced H.R. 1338 "Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015." My bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the claiming and interring of unclaimed veteran remains. The intent of the study is to confirm the scope of this problem, uncover any barriers associated with claiming and interring veteran remains, and solicit recommendations from the Department of Veterans Affairs on potential program improvements. This is the first step in returning honor to our country's heroes.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. Metros and Mr. Golden for their dedicated work in service to our country's veterans. When asked why he is so passionate about this issue, Mr. Golden, who served with the First Air Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War, simply replied that these are his Brothers in Arms and they deserve to be buried beside those that have walked the same path.